

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Cc:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** (b) (6) Comment #3 to Department of Justice  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 18, 2018 4:22:57 PM  
**Attachments:** [Sierra Club Letter on Bunker Hill 1 29 10.pdf](#)

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To: Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division

Regarding: United States of America v. Placer Mining Company, Inc. (dba New Bunker Hill Mining Co.) and Robert Hopper, Jr., D.J. Ref. No. 90-11-3-128/3.

Although EPA has a right to “cost recovery” to be repaid for money they have already spent on the cleanup, I believe it is very wrong for EPA to negotiate a settlement like this without requesting that some settlement funds go to the impacted community which has already suffered so much, especially poor health from decades of lead contamination. The community has often hoped other settlement funds would be made available – but this has never happened.

EPA approving reopening this old mine could do many things to harm the environment and the people who live there -- future problems that we have no idea about. The mine has been closed for years – is in bad shape...the lower levels flooded The ore will go “somewhere” for smelting but we know nothing about the future impacts of waste disposal and smelting. Jobs – yes. Healthy jobs – probably not.

From the article:

<http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2018/mar/12/settlement-could-lead-to-bunker-hill-reopening-new/>

“If the company can contract with a local mill to process the ore, the Bunker Hill Mine could re-start production on a limited basis by year’s end, he said. When the Bunker Hill Mine has its own mill and is fully operational, it will employ about 300 people, said Nicholas Konkin, the company’s marketing and communication manager. The Bunker Hill Mine’s lower levels are flooded, but the mine could support eight to 10

years of operations from the dry upper levels, he said.

For identification purposes, I write today as a concerned citizen but I am a member of the Sierra Club which has had concerns about the cleanup of the Bunker Hill Superfund site for many years. Please read our attached letter.

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